



News Release

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State disciplines health care providers

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Department of Health has taken disciplinary actions or withdrawn charges against health care providers in our state.

The department's Health Systems Quality Assurance Division works with boards, commissions, and advisory committees to set licensing standards for more than 80 health care professions (e.g., medical doctors, nurses, counselors).

Information about health care providers is on the agency website. Click on "[Look up a healthcare provider license](#)" in the "How Do I?" section of the [Department of Health website](#) (doh.wa.gov). The site includes information about a health care provider's license status, the expiration and renewal date of their credential, disciplinary actions and copies of legal documents issued after July 1998. This information is also available by calling 360-236-4700. Consumers who think a health care provider acted unprofessionally are also encouraged to call and report their complaint.

Ferry County

In March 2013 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Wendy D. Hunter** (RN60196259) with unprofessional conduct. Hunter allegedly submitted a fraudulent urine sample for a required drug test under a drug monitoring contract. A second sample allegedly tested positive for hydrocodone and alcohol.

Grant County

In March 2013 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Kathleen K. Mugnos** (RN00131012) with unprofessional conduct. Mugnos allegedly submitted synthetic urine at a pre-employment drug test.

King County

In March 2013 the X-Ray Technician Program ended probation for X-ray technician applicant **David A. Bacon** (XT60171263) but didn't issue a credential to him because he hasn't met requirements.

In March 2013 the Osteopathy Board entered an agreement with osteopathic physician **Philip Roger Matthews** (OP00000982) and will monitor his credential for at least five years. Matthews' treatment of 19 pain patients was below the standard of care. All 19 cases involved issues related to prescription medication use.

In March 2013 the Pharmacy Board conditionally granted a pharmacy assistant credential to **Evan Bryce Dominguez** (VB60308001) who was convicted in Montana of criminal possession of dangerous drugs in 2012.

In March 2013 the Nursing Assistant Program conditionally granted a certified nursing assistant credential to **Major Dane Fortson** (NC60297232). Fortson was convicted on one count of attempted theft, five counts of driving under the influence, one count of physical control of a vehicle under the influence, and one count of second-degree driving while license suspended from 2005 to 2010.

In March 2013 the Psychology Board charged psychologist **Elizabeth M. Milo** (PY00002526) with unprofessional conduct. Milo allegedly traded her services with a parent of patients to do billing work. Charges say she didn't clarify her relationship with the parent, gave the parent access to other patients' records, and that she created a dual relationship that ultimately harmed Milo's therapeutic relationship with patients.

In March 2013 the Nursing Commission ended probation for registered nurse **Robert James Wright** (RN00108979).

In March 2013 the Naturopathy Board charged naturopathic physician **Scott D. Rose** (NT00001154) with unprofessional conduct. Rose's medical marijuana authorizations for seven patients allegedly didn't meet the standard of care. Rose allegedly performed inadequate physical exams and didn't establish follow-up treatment plans.

In March 2013 the secretary of health charged registered nursing assistant **Robert M. Rubia** (NA00196177) with unprofessional conduct. The Department of Social and Health Services found that Rubia sexually abused vulnerable adults at facilities where he worked.

Kitsap County

In March 2013 the Nursing Assistant Program entered an agreement with certified nursing assistant **Carl T. Carter** (NC10101727) requiring him to re-enter and comply with a monitoring program. Carter didn't comply with a previous agreement to seek a substance abuse evaluation and, if required, comply with the program.

In March 2013 the Nursing Commission entered an agreement with registered nurse **Tarra D. Lawson** (RN00137654) and placed her credential on probation. In 2011 Lawson was convicted of second-degree organized retail theft, possession of a controlled substance — methamphetamine, delivery of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana with intent to manufacture or deliver, and second-degree unlawful possession of a firearm.

Mason County

In March 2013 the Chemical Dependency Professional program denied a chemical dependency professional trainee credential to **Aaron Micheal Rickards** (CO60329592). In 1998 Rickards was convicted of taking a motor vehicle without permission, malicious mischief, second-degree arson, criminal trespassing, and minor in possession/consumption of alcohol. In 1999 he was convicted of second-degree burglary, and in 2001 he was convicted of third-degree theft and minor in possession/consumption of alcohol. In 2004 he was convicted of minor intoxicated in a public place, and in 2008 he was convicted of third-degree assault.

Pierce County

In March 2013 the Denturist Program ended probation for denturist **Larisa Reznik** (DN00000325).

In March 2013 the Nursing Assistant Program entered an agreement with certified nursing assistant **Vorite S. Tuafafie** (NC10072225) and placed her credential on probation for a year. While working at a care facility, Tuafafie left a patient in soiled briefs for more than six hours, and left work early without changing the briefs.

In March 2013 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant **Karyn K. Kuklish** (NA00178856) with unprofessional conduct. Kuklish allegedly didn't comply with a previous stipulation.

Spokane County

In March 2013 the Counselor Program released mental health counselor **Tina R. Weaver** (LH00009898) from terms and conditions of a 2012 agreement. Weaver, also known as Tina Cronin, may practice without restrictions.

In March 2013 the Chemical Dependency Professional program granted a chemical dependency professional trainee credential to **Kari Jolene Swecker** (CO60336493) and placed her on probation. In 1996 Swecker was convicted of second-degree possession of stolen property, second-degree malicious mischief, and second-degree theft. In 2009 she was convicted of solicitation to commit possession of a controlled substance — methamphetamine — and possession of a dangerous weapon.

In March 2013 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Linda M. Gusch** (RN00096929) with unprofessional conduct. Gusch allegedly didn't change a patient's dressing as often as she should have, and didn't check on another patient as often as she said she did.

In March 2013 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant **Stacie Marie Leighton** (NA60290530) with unprofessional conduct. Leighton allegedly took a patient's morphine for her own use and replaced it with water. She allegedly tested positive for morphine during a workplace drug test.

Thurston County

In March 2013 the Chemical Dependency Professional program denied a chemical dependency professional trainee credential to **Holly Noel Ardoin** (CO60331463), who was convicted in Alaska of criminally negligent homicide in 2007.

In March 2013 the Nursing Assistant Program denied registered nursing assistant and certified nursing assistant credentials to **Taylor Miryn Pulsifer** (NA60327489, NC60331766). In 2011 Pulsifer was convicted of third-degree theft and of obstruction of a law enforcement officer.

Yakima County

In March 2013 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Donna H. Hancock** (RN00133458) with unprofessional conduct. Hancock allegedly didn't comply with an agreement to seek a substance abuse evaluation program.

Out of State

California: In March 2013 the Medical Commission indefinitely suspended the credential of physician **Lana Lechabrier** (MD00027048), who didn't respond to charges after the California Medical Board suspended her credential.

Idaho: In March 2013 the Nursing Commission charged licensed practical nurse **Sara E. Dees** (LP00051647) with unprofessional conduct. Dees fainted while on duty at an assisted living facility and a test allegedly yielded a blood alcohol level over the threshold for intoxication. She allegedly admitted consuming alcohol before going to work as a nurse and said she does so routinely.

Oregon: In March 2013 the Nursing Assistant Program reinstated the registered nursing assistant credential of **Francisca Cruz** (NA60167072), who met terms of her probation.

Oregon: In March 2013 the Nursing Commission denied a registered nursing credential to **Linda Marie Coakley** (RN60297505). In 2010 Coakley voluntarily surrendered her Oregon registered nursing credential and in 2011 she was convicted in Oregon of first-degree official misconduct, two counts of second-degree possession of a controlled substance, and two counts of second-degree tampering with drug records.

Note to Editors: Health care providers charged with unprofessional conduct have 20 days to respond to the Department of Health in writing. The case then enters the settlement process. If no disciplinary agreement can be reached, the case goes to a hearing.

The [Department of Health website](http://www.doh.wa.gov) (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).